

Message Text

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TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 213717

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XJ

SUBJECT: AUG. 27 PRESS BRIEFING: SPECULATION ON VORSTER
MEETING

1. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT FUNSETH, AT AUG. 27 PRESS
BRIEFING, WAS ASKED TO CONFIRM THAT SECRETARY WAS PLANNING
IMMINENT TRIP TO AFRICA AND SECOND MEETING WITH SOUTH
AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER.

2. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF BRIEFING (BEGIN TEXT):

Q: IS SECRETARY CONSIDERING TRIP TO AFRICA IN SEPTEMBER?

A: ONLY THING I HAVE ON FUTURE TRAVEL IS AS HE INDICATED
YESTERDAY AFTER HE CAME OUT OF HEARING -- THAT HE WAS
CONSIDERING POSSIBLE MEETING WITH MR. VORSTER, PROBABLY
NOT IN AFRICA, AND THAT DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE YET.
HE IS TO MAKE THAT DECISION IN LIGHT OF REPORTS HE GETS
FROM MR. ROGERS AND MR. SCHAUFELLE.

3. Q: BUT THAT IS NOT REALLY RESPONSIVE TO MY QUESTION.

A: I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING BEYOND THAT ON HIS PROSPECTIVE
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TRAVELS.

4. Q: ARE SCHAUFELLE AND ROGERS BACK YET?

A: NO, SIR.

5. Q: WHEN ARE THEY DUE BACK?

A: WE DO NOT HAVE THE DATE FOR THEIR RETURN AS YET.

6. Q: WHAT I AM GETTING AT IS: ARE THEY GOING TO BE BACK BEFORE SECRETARY GIVES HIS NEXT SPEECH ON AFRICAN MATTERS, WHICH WILL BE TUESDAY IN PHILADELPHIA.

A: I DOUBT IT.

7. Q: IS HE CONSIDERING BOTH TRIP TO AFRICA AND MEETING WITH VORSTER OUTSIDE OF AFRICA?

A: I JUST DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT. ONLY THING I HAVE TODAY IS THAT HE HAS NOT MADE DECISION ON HIS SECOND MEETING WITH VORSTER. HE WAS ASKED YESTERDAY WHETHER THAT WOULD TAKE -- WHETHER MEETING WITH MR. VORSTER WOULD BE IN AFRICA -- AND HE SAID: NO, HE THOUGHT IT PROBABLY WOULD BE ELSEWHERE. THAT'S ALL I HAVE.

8. Q: I UNDERSTAND. IF HE WERE TO BE LEAVING IN A WEEK OR SO, IT WOULD BE LOGICAL THAT THERE WOULD BE CONSIDERATION OF TRIP TO AFRICA, WOULDN'T IT?

A: NOT NECESSARILY.

9. Q: YOU CAN'T SAY NOW THAT HE IS CONSIDERING TRIP TO AFRICA?

A: I AM NOT IN POSITION TO SAY THAT HE IS CONSIDERING TRAVEL TO ANY PLACE OTHER THAN FOR THIS POSSIBLE MEETING WITH MR. VORSTER. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ELSE.

10. Q: WELL, HE HAS TO TRAVEL TO GET TO SEE HIM.

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WELL, I CAN ONLY ---

11. Q: IF HE IS CONSIDERING A VORSTER MEETING, HE IS CONSIDERING TRIP

A. I SAID, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THAT.

12. Q. YES. HOWEVER, THAT IS PROBABLY NOT IN AFRICA.

A. THAT IS RIGHT.

13. Q. SO I CAN'T SEE WHY WE CAN'T GET AN ANSWER AS
TO WHETHER HE IS CONSIDERING TRIP TO AFRICA --

A. I JUST DO NOT HAVE THAT.

14. WELL, IF YOU HAVE TO COME TO US AT END OF NEXT
WEEK AND SAY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THAT
SECRETARY IS LEAVING FOR AFRICA IN TWO WEEKS OR SO --

A. WELL --

15. Q. -- THAT WOULD ALL HAVE JUST HAPPENED WITHIN
COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT?

A. ALL I AM SAYING IS THAT I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING
THAT PERMITS ME TO RESPOND TO YOUR QUESTION TODAY. KISSINGER

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